

[40124/02402-V 7828/KK]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if multiple names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED CONFIGURING OF A
HART MULTI-DROP SYSTEM**

for which U.S. Patent Application was filed on June 14, 2006 and assigned Serial No.
10/582,808;

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to in this declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/EP2004/014618 filed on December 22, 2004

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/532,013 filed on December 22, 2003

I have been informed of the duty to disclose information that might be material to the patentability of this application. I understand that this duty continues through the entire patent application process and ends only with the actual issuance of a patent. Therefore, if I become aware of any information that might be material for this application, I will immediately notify the company and/or its attorneys.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor	:	Ralf SCHAETZLE
Inventor's signature	:	<u>Ralf Schätzle</u>
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